

CLAIMS:

1. An apparatus comprising:

a vehicle having ground wheels for movement over a floor of a containment area for raising hatchlings into birds;

5 the ground wheels being arranged for movement of the vehicle to follow a path of a strip of sheet material laid over the floor;

a support on the vehicle for receiving a roll of the sheet material such that the sheet material can be wound into the roll from the floor as the vehicle is moved across the floor;

10 the support being arranged for removal of the wound roll from the support when wound for disposal;

and the support being arranged to be driven for winding the strip onto the roll.

2. The apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein the vehicle
15 comprises a hand cart with guide handles for propelling of the vehicle by pushing by a user walking with the vehicle.

3. The apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein the vehicle comprises a hand cart with two wheels allowing hand steering of the hand cart.

4. The apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein the vehicle is
20 arranged to be propelled by the drive mechanism for driving rotation of the support causing a pulling action on the strip.

5. The apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein the support is arranged to be driven by a motor driven by a power source on the vehicle.

6. The apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein the support is arranged to be driven by a hand crank operated by a user walking alongside the vehicle.

7. The apparatus according to Claim 6 wherein the hand crank is
5 arranged at a height to be driven by the user while standing adjacent the hand cart and wherein the support is arranged at a front of the hand cart adjacent the floor for rolling the strip from the floor and wherein there is provided a drive coupling for communicating drive from the hand crank to the support.

8. The apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein the support is
10 arranged to be driven manually by a user for controlling the rate of winding.

9. The apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein the support is arranged to be driven from the ground wheels as the vehicle is propelled by pushing by a user walking alongside the vehicle.

10. The apparatus according to Claim 9 wherein the support is
15 arranged such that the roll rests on the ground wheels for frictional engagement therewith.

11. An apparatus comprising:

a hand cart operable by a user walking with the cart, the hand cart having ground wheels for movement over a floor of a containment area for raising
20 hatchlings into birds;

the ground wheels being arranged for steering movement of the vehicle by the user to follow a path of a strip of sheet material laid over the floor;

a support on the vehicle for receiving a roll of the sheet material such

that the sheet material can be wound into the roll from the floor as the vehicle is moved across the floor;

and a drive mechanism operable by the user for driving rotation of the support on the vehicle for winding the strip onto the roll at a rate determined by the user;

the support being arranged for removal of the wound roll from the support when wound for disposal;

the hand cart being arranged to be propelled solely by the winding of the strip onto the roll providing a pulling action on the cart and by pushing by the user.

12. The apparatus according to Claim 11 wherein the hand cart has guide handles for propelling of the vehicle by pushing by the user.

13. The apparatus according to Claim 11 wherein the hand cart has two wheels allowing hand steering of the hand cart.

14. The apparatus according to Claim 11 wherein the drive mechanism for driving rotation of the support comprises a motor driven by a power source on the hand cart.

15. The apparatus according to Claim 11 wherein the drive mechanism for driving rotation of the support comprises a hand crank arranged to be driven by the user.

16. The apparatus according to Claim 15 wherein the hand crank is arranged at a height to be driven by the user while standing adjacent the hand cart and wherein the support is arranged at a front of the hand cart adjacent the floor for

rolling the strip from the floor and wherein there is provided a drive coupling for communicating drive from the hand crank to the support.

17. An apparatus comprising:

5 a vehicle having ground wheels for movement over a floor of a containment area for raising hatchlings into birds;

the ground wheels being arranged for movement of the vehicle to follow a path of a strip of sheet material laid over the floor;

the vehicle having a hand bar such that the vehicle can be propelled by a pushing force from a user walking alongside the vehicle;

10 a support on the vehicle for receiving a roll of the sheet material such that the sheet material can be wound into the roll from the floor as the vehicle is moved across the floor;

the support being arranged for removal of the wound roll from the support when wound for disposal;

15 and the support being arranged to be driven from the ground wheels as the vehicle is propelled by pushing by the user walking alongside the vehicle.

18. The apparatus according to Claim 17 wherein the support is arranged such that the roll rests on the ground wheels for frictional engagement therewith such that the roll is driven at a common speed with the forward movement
20 of the vehicle.

19. The apparatus according to Claim 17 wherein the support includes a manually operable lever adjacent the hand bar by which the user can lift the support such that it is free from being driven while the user propels the vehicle.

20. A method of raising hatchlings comprising:

laying a strip of a sheet material over the floor of a barn for containing the hatchlings;

providing a layer of feed on the strip for eating by the hatchlings;

5 placing the hatchlings on the strip;

and, after the hatchlings have grown sufficiently to move from the strip, providing a vehicle having ground wheels for movement over the floor;

moving the vehicle to follow a path of the strip of sheet material laid over the floor;

10 providing a support on the vehicle for receiving a roll of the sheet material such that the sheet material can be wound into the roll from the floor as the vehicle is moved across the floor;

driving rotation of the support on the vehicle for winding the strip onto the roll at a rate related to the rate of movement of the vehicle to wind up the strip as

15 the vehicle moves along the strip;

and removing the wound roll from the support for disposal.

21. The method according to Claim 20 wherein the vehicle comprises a hand cart with guide handles for propelling of the vehicle by pushing by a user walking with the vehicle.